

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
AGENDA SETTING WORK SESSION  
APRIL 5, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commission Chairman Todd Higdon  
District 1 Commissioner Dennis Adams  
District 2 Commissioner Terry Chandler  
District 4 Commissioner Brian Kirk  
District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

District 3 Commissioner Theresa Bettis

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rhonda S. Wooten, County Clerk  
Mike Pruett, County Attorney

Chairman Higdon called the work session to order at 6:08 p.m.

**Item No. 1. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Higdon commended Zach Mitcham on his article regarding Madison County's Volunteer Fire Departments. He recognized Shiloh Fire Chief Butch McDuffie and Danielsville Fire Chief Marc Perry for their contributions to the article. He said it is one of the best articles ever written on volunteer fire departments.

Chairman Higdon shared information provided in a 2021 First Quarter Report prepared by Courthouse Security. The report included the number of persons screened at the front entrance. There were 5,031 contacts in January, 5,214 in February and 5,377 in March for a total of 15,622 during the first three months of this year. Chairman Higdon commended Officer Steve Waller and Officer Scott Rice for keeping everyone safe.

Chairman Higdon advised the Board of another Broadband meeting held today to discuss a feasibility study. He said the fee could cost from \$20,000 up to \$35,000. He suggested that the funding should take place in three phases to allow for phase one to generate income and then go to phase two and phase three. He asked the Board to let him know if they would like to move forward with this endeavor.

**Item No. 2. Hearings and Actions on Rezone Matters, Special Use Permits, Etc.**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Item No. 3. Discuss creating an Environmental Impact Committee**

Chairman Higdon recognized Drago Tesanovich. Mr. Tesanovich shared his ideas on establishing a Citizen Advisory Board to examine proposed development and provide advice and information by performing independent research. The Board had questions regarding the fields of expertise being considered, policies and procedures and basic logistics on the workflow. Mr. Tesanovich also requested a special called meeting to discuss the GRP noise study and survey.

### **Item No. 4. Discuss selling 4.5 acre land-locked parcel on Colbert Danielsville Road through sealed bid process**

The Board discussed selling a county owned land-locked parcel through a county-wide sealed bid process with advertisement to state no guaranteed access.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Item No. 5. Discuss clarifying Recreation Department programs and policies**

Chairman Higdon said he has reviewed the Special Event Application process with Director Parham and realized that all documents are not necessarily provided at the time of application. He suggested a "packet" should be distributed at application time to help reduce the confusion.

There was discussion among the Board of Commissioners, Recreation Department Director Shelly Parham, Recreation Department Board Chairman Darrell Woods and Madison County citizen Angela Rouse regarding plans to simplify the policies, hire an experienced recreation assistant and establish goals for future recreation opportunities in Madison County.

### **Item No. 6. Discuss filling vacant positions at the Recreation Department and Road Department**

The Board discussed amending hiring policies to allow for the chairman to have final authority in hiring all positions with the exception of department directors and assistant directors.

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to hire the two recommended road department applicants. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

The Board requested additional information regarding the selection process with the recommended applicant for the assistant director position at the recreation department.

### **Item No. 7. Consider approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Comer for tax collection**

On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Comer for tax collection. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 8. Discuss amending section 6-33 of the Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance regarding excise taxes**

The Board discussed amending the ordinance to allow for excise taxes to be paid on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month or the date the license holder is required to pay state excise taxes.

**Item No. 9. Discuss changing the Chief Appraiser position to exempt status**

This request was withdrawn.

**Item No. 10. Discuss a proposed EMS pension plan**

The Board reviewed a proposed pension plan submitted by Greg Gease with ACCG to allow for early retirement with full EMT-Paramedic participation and a mandatory 4% payroll deducted pretax contribution.

**Item No. 11. Discuss adopting a resolution to facilitate a grant application for the Mize Road Water System Improvement Project**

The Board reviewed the resolution to be considered for vote at the April 19 Regular Business Meeting.

**Item No. 12. Discuss approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the IDBA for the appropriation of funding and other terms relating to the Mize Road Water System Improvement Project**

The Board reviewed the agreement to be considered for vote at the April 19 Regular Business Meeting.

**Item No. 13. Discuss approving 2020 budget amendments dated 4-5-21**

The Board reviewed the budget amendments to be considered for vote at the April 19 Regular Business Meeting.

**Item No. 14. Discuss placing TSPLOST on the November ballot**

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to have letters sent to the cities inviting mayors to attend a scheduled meeting to discuss possible TSPLOST projects. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 15. Urgent Matters**

There were no urgent matters.

**Item No. 16. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).**

There was no need for executive session.

**Item No. 17. Adjourn**

Chairman Higdon adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.